

Amendments to the Drawings:

Please replace drawing sheets 1 and 2 depicting Figs. 2-3 with the enclosed Replacement Sheets. In the Replacement Sheets, Figs. 2 and 3 have been amended to include the designation – Prior Art.

See attachment of Replacement Drawings.

REMARKS

I. Status of the Application

Claims 12-27 and 29-31 are pending in this application. In the May 1, 2007 office action, the Examiner:

- A. Objected to claim 21 due to informalities;
- B. Stated that claims 29-31 needed to be renumbered to 28-30;
- C. Objected to the Drawings because Figures 2 and 3 need 'Prior Art' labels;
- D. Rejected claims 12-16, 18-19, 21-26 and 29-30 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicant Admitted Prior Art in view of US 6,442,704 to Morimoto et al.;
- E. Rejected claims 17 and 27 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Prior Art and Morimoto et al. and further in view of US 6,294,962 to Mar; and
- F. Objected to claims 20 and 31 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim.

Applicant gratefully acknowledges the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 20 and 31. In this response, applicants have amended Figure 2 and 3 as required. Specifically, Figures 2 and 3 have been labeled as "Prior Art." Claim 12 has been amended to include the allowable subject matter from claim 20 as well as the subject matter from intervening claim 19. Claim 23 has been amended to include the allowable subject matter from claim 31. Accordingly, claims 19, 20 and 31 have been cancelled. Claim 21 has been amended to correct dependency, and claims 29 and 30 have been amended to correct numbering issues. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of the

claims based on the foregoing amendments and following remarks.

II. The Objection to Drawings Should Be Withdrawn

Figures 2 and 3 were objected to for not being designated as prior art. Figures 2 and 3 have been amended to include the “Prior Art” designation as required. (See Replacement Sheets submitted herewith). Accordingly, the objection to the drawings should now be withdrawn.

III. The Objection to Claim 21 for Informalities Should Be Withdrawn

Claim 21 was objected to for informalities. In particular, claim 21 was objected to for being dependent upon cancelled claim 11. Claim 21 has been amended to correct dependency from cancelled claim 11 to claim 12. Therefore, it is submitted that the objection to claim 21 for informalities should now be withdrawn.

IV. Renumbering of Claims 29-31

It was stated in the office action that claims 29-31 should be renumbered as claims 28-30 because claim 28 was inadvertently skipped. Claims 29 and 30 have been renumbered as claims 28 and 29, respectively. Claim 31 has been cancelled.

V. Claim Rejections

Claims 12-16, 18-19, 21-26 and 29-30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over AAPA in view of Morimoto. Claims 17 and 27 were rejected under 35

U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over AAPA in view of Morimoto and further in view of Mar.

In this response, independent claim 12 has been amended to include the allowable subject matter from claim 20 and the subject matter from intervening claim 19. Therefore, it is submitted that claim 12 is now in condition for allowance. Independent claim 23 has been amended to include the allowable subject matter from claim 31. Therefore, it is submitted that independent claim 23 is also in condition for allowance. Claims 19, 20 and 31 have been cancelled.

Dependent claims 13-18, 21, 22 and 24-29 (after renumbering of claims 29 and 30) depend directly or indirectly and incorporate all of the limitations of the respective base claims 12 and 23. Accordingly, because claims 12 and 23 are now in condition for allowance, dependent claims 13-18, 21, 22 and 24-29 are now in condition for allowance as well.

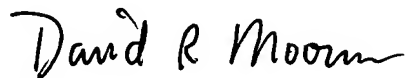
VI. Conclusion

For all of the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted the applicant has made a patentable contribution to the art. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of this application is therefore respectfully requested.

In the event applicant has inadvertently overlooked the need for an extension of time or payment of an additional fee, the applicant conditionally petitions therefore, and authorizes any fee deficiency to be charged to deposit account 13-0014.

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Respectfully submitted,



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